

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

7 APR. 1962

~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. General Clay sees easing of Berlin tension

As evidence of a relaxation of the Soviet posture he cites: a) cessation of corridor flights; b) the agreement on military missions; c) overtures to break the impasse on intersector visits by the Berlin commandants, and, d) the outward friendliness of Soviet representatives. Looking ahead, he forecasts that, if and when pressure is renewed, it will be directed against the West Berlin economy rather than against the Allies.

2. Argentina

a. Special Argentine envoy Manrique, who saw President Betancourt on Thursday, seems to have run up against a stone wall in trying to get Venezuela to relax its attitude toward the Guido government. Manrique is due next in Washington with a letter to the President from Guido.

b. Guido completed his cabinet yesterday, without succeeding in putting together a representative group of prominent political figures. He is still caught in a squeeze on the question of invalidating the Peronists' electoral victories, with the military ranged on one side and the principal non-Peronist parties on the other.

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3. Soviet satellite
launch

Data acquired so far on Sputnik XIV, launched [redacted] yesterday from Kapustin Yar, suggest that it is closely akin to Sputnik XIII which was put up on March 16. However, its times of passage over the US make it less suited for photo-reconnaissance.

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4. Congo

a. Brussels and Leopoldville yesterday announced resumption of diplomatic relations.

b. Adoula, who has yet to show any readiness to get down to specific cases with Tshombé on reintegration, is now talking about an extended visit to Stanleyville.

5. London to make major
move on EEC membership

A British statement, designed to speed up the lazy pace of negotiations on British admittance to the Community, is scheduled for next Tuesday at a meeting of Western European Union members. It is expected from information gleaned by Embassy London that the British will call for linking EEC defense policy to NATO along the lines favored by everyone but the French; shade themselves toward De Gaulle's thinking on the question of supranationalism; and steer a middle course on other questions. London now hopes to have a basic agreement with the EEC countries worked out by July or August, a Commonwealth conference in September, and then full-dress parliamentary debate in November or December.

6. Indonesia-Netherlands

There is no word yet from The Hague on yesterday's cabinet discussion of the Bunker formula.

7. Shah's visit

a. A close scrutiny is being kept on the situation in Iran against the possibility that the Shah's impending absence might provide the signal for new turbulence. [redacted] the conglomerate nationalist opposition is capable of stirring up violence on a moment's notice [redacted]

b. Both the Iranian Embassy here and Tehran are somewhat apprehensive over the possibility of embarrassment to the Shah arising out of his scheduled meetings with Iranian students in the US. [redacted]

8. Dominican government beset by political difficulties

With its members finding it hard to pull together, the governing Council of State is making little headway in building public confidence. Its problems seem likely to be soon compounded by a widening split within its principal political bulwark, the National Civic Union, between go-slow elements and those demanding more haste in removing the traces of Trujilloism. Meanwhile, there have been scattered public disorders provoked by the Castro-inclined 14th of June party.

9. New Delhi

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NOTES

- A. There has been a clash between Ecuadorian security forces and alleged pro-Castro elements in an area about 50 miles from Quito. Fragmentary information so far available indicates that the government has imposed a state of emergency on the region. 50X1
- B. We look for the Chinese Communist congress, still going on behind closed doors, to ratify a distinct shift in economic policy in the direction of retrenchment. Evidence that a major purge of the leadership is in the making remains, however, entirely circumstantial.
- C. An outbreak of dysentery, which has hit several East German districts, is near epidemic proportions in the Berlin area. [redacted] The rumor mill in East Berlin is blaming the trouble on contaminated butter from Communist China. 50X1
- D. Iraqi forces, showing no stomach for the campaign against the rebellious Kurds, are taking a licking in fighting in the north. More setbacks could very well rock Qasim's position.

- [redacted]
- F. Khrushchev is evidently down with the flu, the second time this year. He has been particularly prone to this ailment, but Ambassador Thompson has recently noted signs of general wear-and-tear.
- G. Algiers and Oran are exceptions, but elsewhere in Algeria there are signs that the Europeans' resistance to the cease fire and the provisional executive is beginning to wear away.

- H. The Ne Win government in Burma, continuing to move toward authoritarianism, has abolished the country's independent court system. The regime is also putting a distinct socialist stamp on the domestic economy, but we see no signs of drift away from a neutralist foreign policy.
- I. Cairo will probably announce shortly that the defendants in the French "spy trial" are being amnestied. A recommendation from Algerian rebel leaders has figured in the decision.

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE